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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. .... Washington, D. C. .... December 29, 1954 .....SS145

## 5th Largest Crop Total

The fifth largest volume of crops was produced in 1954 despite acreage restrictions for several important crops and severe drought in a large part of the country. Harvest was practically completed by December 1, with rapid progress under favorable to ideal conditions in November. Most products are of high quality.

Year	Index numbers--1947-49=100		Harvested acreage
	Production, all crops	Yield per acre, 28 crops	
1947.....	93	92.8	Mil. acres 346
1948.....	106	107.8	348
1949.....	101	99.6	352
1950.....	97	102.8	337
1951.....	99	101.9	336
1952.....	103	106.6	342
1953.....	103	107.0	341
1954.....	100	107.7	337

## Smaller Acreage Harvested

A relatively small total of 337 million acres of crops were harvested in 1954--down 1.2 percent from 1953. Smaller acreages were harvested of corn, winter wheat, spring wheat, cotton, and hay than in 1953. Larger acreages of oats, barley, rye, flax, sorghums, and soybeans were harvested. By regions, total harvested acreages were smaller than in 1953 in all but the South Central area where the large sorghum acreage brought the total slightly above the relatively low 1953 level. Harvested acreage in the South Atlantic States was 5 percent less than in 1953, reflecting effects of the summer drought, and 7 percent less in the West.

## Corn Crop Below Average

Corn production is estimated at 2,965 million bushels, nearly 3 percent under average, and 7 percent below 1953. Hot, dry weather over much of the southwestern Corn Belt and the South seared corn at the usual time for pollination. This reduced grain yields and led to much acreage being utilized for silage and forage in these areas. Production for grain of 2,652 million bushels is nearly 8 percent less than in 1953.

## Wheat Production Below The Billion-Bushel Mark

Production of all wheat in 1954 fell below a billion bushels for the second time in the last 11 years. The 1954 crop, grown under acreage allotments and marketing quotas, is estimated at 970 million bushels--17 percent below 1953 and 14 percent below the 1943-52 average. Total acreage of wheat harvested

for grain in 1954 was 53.7 million acres, about one-fifth below 1953 and the average. Winter wheat production was 10 percent smaller than in 1953 but only 5 percent below average. Spring wheat production is only five-eighths as large as 1953 and average.

## Cotton Crop 17% Below 1953

The 1954 cotton crop is estimated at 13,569,000 bales - 2.7 percent above the November 1 forecast. It compares with the 1953 crop of 16,465,000 bales and the average of 12,448,000 bales. Abandonment of acreage in cultivation July 1, including acreage removed to comply with acreage allotments, is estimated at 3.0 percent, leaving 19,187,000 acres for harvest, compared with 24,341,000 acres in 1953.

## 4th Largest Tobacco Crop

Tobacco production is estimated at 2,200 million pounds, 7 percent above last year's crop of 2,055 million pounds and the fourth largest of record. Acreage barely exceeded that of 1953 and was below average because of restrictions on some types, but the yield per acre was a record 1,337 pounds.

## Highlights For Other Important Crops

Oats - 1,500 mil. bu. - slightly below 1945 record.  
Sorghum grain - 204 mil. bu. - near-record crop.  
Barley - 370 mil. bu. - 2nd largest crop.  
Rice - 58.9 mil. bags - another record rice crop.  
Rye - 23.7 mil. bu. - a little above 10-year average.  
Buckwheat - 2.7 mil. bu. - smallest in 66 years.  
Soybeans - 343 mil. bu. - record large crop.  
Flaxseed - 41.5 mil. bu. - 4th largest crop.  
Cottonseed - 5.6 mil. tons. - a tenth above average.  
Peanuts picked and threshed - 1,044 mil. lb. - about half of average.  
Beans, dry - 18.9 mil. bags, uncleaned - above average.  
Peas, dry - 3.5 mil. bags, uncleaned - less than 2/3 average.  
Cowpeas for peas - 1,359,000 bu. - smallest in 31 years of record.  
Potatoes - 355 mil. bu. - 7% below 1953; 1/8 below average.  
Sweetpotatoes - 30 mil. bu. - 3d smallest since 1881.

## Large Feed Grain Supply

Feed grain tonnage is relatively large in 1954. The 121.6 million tons was exceeded slightly in 1946 and 1950, otherwise only by the record of 135.4 million tons in 1948. The total feed tonnage, together with heavy carryover stocks, provides a record total supply and a near-record supply per animal unit for the 1954-55 feeding season.

## Deciduous Fruits Below Average; Citrus Above Average

Production of the major deciduous fruits totaled 8.3 million tons in 1954, about the same as in 1953, but 8 percent below average. The apple crop was 11 percent larger than in 1953, but slightly below average. Compared with last season, crops of peaches, grapes, plums, apricots, sour cherries, and cranberries were smaller, but outturns of pears, prunes, figs, sweet cherries, olives, and avocados were larger.

The 1954-55 citrus crops are forecast at 8.5 million tons--3 percent more than the 1953-54 total and a sixth above average. Growing conditions in all citrus areas have been favorable this season. The current orange crop will be record high, but grapefruit outturns are forecast a little below last season and average, and the lemon crop will be smaller than last season, but above average.

## Hay Shortages Likely in Drought Areas

The 104.4 million tons of mostly good quality hay is 1.1 million tons less than in 1953, but 2.4 million tons more than average. With the average carryover, it would provide an ample supply if well distributed, but shortages are likely in areas affected by the 1954 summer drought, and where much hay has been fed to supplement poor grazing.

## Record Large Oilseed Supply

Oilseeds will be in record supply in 1954-55, with a total of more than 17.5 million tons. This is about 6 percent more than in 1953 and a fourth more than average. The record 343 million bushel soybean crop makes up nearly 60 percent; the cottonseed crop makes up less than a third of the total.

## Sugar Crops

A record 14 million tons of sugar beets were produced in 1954. The outturn of 6,940,000 tons of sugarcane for sugar and seed is 9 percent less than the record 1953 crop. Production of sugarcane sirup is less than a third of average and of sorgo sirup about 40 percent of average; each is less than in 1953. More maple products were produced, especially sirup, than in 1953.

## Smaller Supply of Hay Seeds

The supply (1954 production plus carryover) of the six important hay crop seeds--alfalfa, red, alsike and sweet clover, lespedeza, and timothy--for planting during the 1954-55 season is 7 percent smaller than a year earlier and 11 percent below average. Quality of the 1954 crop of these seeds is fairly good to good.

## Commercial Vegetables

Of the 28 vegetables grown commercially for fresh market, about 10,175,000 tons were produced in the 1954 season. This is only 1 percent less than the record tonnage in 1953 and 6 percent above average. Of the 11 vegetables for processing, about 5.95 million tons were produced in 1954. This is 10 percent less than in 1953, but 4 percent more than average.

## November Egg Production 41% Above Average

Farm flocks laid 5,057 million eggs during November, a new high for the month--6 percent more than in November 1953 and 41 percent above the 1943-52 average. January-November egg production was 5 percent more than in 1953 and 12 percent above average. The egg-feed, farm chicken-feed and turkey-feed price relationships in mid-November were all less favorable than a year ago.

## November Milk Production Above Average

November milk production, estimated at 8.5 billion pounds, was only a little above last year's previous record for the month, but was nearly 10 percent above the 1943-52 November average. Production in November was sufficient to provide each person in the United States with 1.71 pounds of milk per day--a little less than last November, and about 2 percent less than average.

## Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Nov. 15, 1953	Oct. 15, 1954	Nov. 15, 1954
Prices received by farmers.....	249	242	244
Crops.....	234	243	244
Food grains.....	229	235	239
Feed grains and hay.....	195	204	199
Tobacco .....	433	441	438
Cotton.....	269	293	281
Fruit .....	205	218	206
Coml. veg. for fresh mkt.....	218	191	237
Oil-bearing crops.....	263	275	277
Livestock and products.....	263	242	243
Meat animals.....	267	267	266
Dairy products.....	288	263	266
Poultry and eggs.....	224	153	159
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities.....	259	262	262
Commodities used in living .....	270	273	272
Commodities used in production.....	1247	250	251
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates .....	277	279	279
Wage rates <sup>2</sup> .....	515	502	502
Parity ratio (prices received to prices paid by farmers) .....	90	87	87

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

<sup>2</sup>Seasonally adjusted.

## Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and unit	Average price		Parity price
	Oct. 15, 1954	Nov. 15, 1954	Nov. 15, 1954
Wheat, bu..... dol.	2.08	2.12	2.48
Corn, bu..... dol.	1.45	1.37	1.80
Peanuts, lb..... ct.	11.6	12.3	13.4
Cotton, Amer. upland, lb..... ct.	34.67	33.17	34.72
Potatoes, bu..... dol.	.932	1.09	1.49
Hogs, 100 lb..... dol.	18.40	18.60	20.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb..... dol.	15.80	15.60	20.90
Calves, 100 lb..... dol.	16.00	15.60	23.10
Lambs, 100 lb..... dol.	17.60	17.70	22.80
Butterfat, lb..... ct.	56.9	57.2	73.9
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb..... dol.	4.32	<sup>1</sup> 4.41	4.69
Chickens, live, lb..... ct.	17.5	17.7	29.6
Eggs, doz..... ct.	32.4	33.9	46.3

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary.



## Winter Wheat Seedings Off 6% From Year Earlier

Seedings of winter wheat in the fall of 1954 are about 6 percent less than a year earlier and nearly one-fourth less than in the fall of 1952, the last time winter wheat was planted with the crop not under acreage allotments and marketing quotas. Total seedings of winter wheat for all purposes this fall are estimated at 43.4 million acres, 2.6 million acres less than in the fall of 1953, and 9.6 million acres less than average. A 1955 winter wheat crop of 679 million bushels is indicated, based on conditions as of December 1, and other factors. This compares with the 1954 crop of 791 million bushels and the 10-year average of 833 million bushels.

## Larger Acreage of Rye Sown

Rye acreage sown for all purposes in the fall of 1954 is the largest in 12 years. The estimated 5,052,000 acres sown this fall is one-fourth more than was seeded in the fall of 1953, and nearly a third more than the 10-year average. This is the second year in which rye acreage has shown a sharp increase. The increase this fall is due to the reduced wheat acreage allotments and the increased need for rye as supplemental pasture in areas that had dry weather during the summer and fall. Condition of rye on December 1 at 85 percent reflects the favorable growing conditions prevailing during October and November. It is 7 points above December 1953 and nearly equal to the 10-year average.

## Farm Employment Drops

In late November, 7,937,000 persons were at work on farms, about 2 million fewer than a month earlier--a decrease slightly smaller than usual. Compared with a year earlier, there were 3 percent fewer family workers and 2 percent fewer hired workers. Farmers and their hired hands were putting in slightly less time per day than a year earlier.

## Production Comparisons

Item	Jan.-Nov. 1953	Jan.-Nov. 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.) .....	112.3	115.0
Eggs, (bil.) .....	56.5	59.1
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	17,687	18,022
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.) .....	17,830	17,651
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	1535	1538
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	116,777	116,986

<sup>1</sup>January-October under Federal inspection.

## Nonfarm Indexes of Interest to Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Nov. 1953	Oct. 1954	Nov. 1954
Wholesale prices of food.	1947-49=100	104	102	103
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49=100	112	112	111
Weekly factory earnings.	1947-49=100	148	140	141

## 5% Increase in 1955 Spring Pig Crop Indicated

The 1954 pig crop totaled 92.5 million head, 13 percent more than the 1953 pig crop. The spring pig crop at 55.7 million head was up 12 percent and the fall crop of 36.8 million head was 16 percent larger. The number of pigs saved per litter for the fall crop was 6.78 pigs, the highest on record.

For the 1955 spring pig crop, reports on breeding intentions indicate a total of 8,469,000 sows to farrow, 5 percent more than last spring. If the intentions for spring farrowings materialize and the number of pigs saved per litter equals the 10-year average with an allowance for upward trend, the 1955 spring pig crop would be 58.5 million head--5 percent more than last spring.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES

Farm production: Index Numbers of Total Output, Gross Production of Livestock and Crops, by Groups, and Related Indexes, United States<sup>1</sup>

(1947-49 = 100)

Item	1951-53	1953	Indicated 1954 <sup>2</sup>
Farm output.....	106	108	108
All livestock and products <sup>3</sup> ....	112	114	119
Meat animals .....	114	114	120
Dairy products.....	102	106	108
Poultry and eggs.....	123	127	133
All crops <sup>4</sup> .....	102	103	100
Feed grains.....	100	101	104
Hay and forage.....	107	109	108
Food grains .....	94	96	83
Vegetables .....	97	99	97
Fruits and nuts .....	102	106	106
Sugar crops .....	98	106	116
Cotton .....	109	116	95
Tobacco.....	110	102	109
Oil crops .....	104	103	118
Feed used by farm horses and mules <sup>5</sup> .....	65	57	51
Cropland used.....	100	100	99
Crop production per acre <sup>6</sup> .....	102	103	101
Animal units of breeding live- stock <sup>7</sup> .....	104	103	107
Livestock production per breeding unit <sup>7</sup> .....	108	111	111

Prepared jointly by Agricultural Research Service and Agricultural Marketing Service.

<sup>1</sup>For historical data and explanation of indexes, see "Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency," PERB 3, ARS.

<sup>2</sup>Indications for 1954 based on December 1954 "Crop Production" report and other releases of the Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS.

<sup>3</sup>Includes minor livestock products not included in the separate groups shown.

<sup>4</sup>Includes production of some miscellaneous crops not in separate groups shown.

<sup>5</sup>Hay and concentrates only. Not included in farm output.

<sup>6</sup>Index of crop production per acre is a ratio of total crop production to total land used for crops. It differs from the AMS index of yields per harvested acre of 28 crops.

<sup>7</sup>Animal units and production exclude horses and mules.

State estimates of cash receipts from farm marketings in October were published in the Farm Income Situation released on December 16.

## Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's  
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1</sup>	Farm value <sup>2</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average.....	\$ 1,002	\$ 452	\$ 550	45%
1953--Nov. ....	990	442	548	45
1954--Oct.....	974	404	570	41
Nov. <sup>3</sup> .....	967	410	557	42

<sup>1</sup>Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup>Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

<sup>3</sup>Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

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